

## Panic! in the Ballroom: Hypnotist Delivers Hilarity

By Joe Stewart, Staff Writer

For the audience members filling the Halleck Center Ballroom, the opportunity to see their friends and colleagues step outside the boundaries of normal college behavior—as broad as those boundaries can be—was tantalizing enough to fill over 170 seats on the night of Wednesday, January 17.

The Student Union Board arranged for hypnotist Daniel James to travel to Saint Joseph's College from his native Las Vegas to take student volunteers—and the audience watching the pandemonium that ensued—on a truly entertaining journey into the world of the subconscious mind.

After a brief introduction, James took the stage and explained the process of hypnosis in layman's terms.

Working in a hint of education, he put to rest a fear of those perhaps more unfamiliar with hypnosis: becoming hypnotized is not a guarantee that one's "deepest, darkest, innermost secrets," as James himself described, will be placed on display. In fact, the hypnosis process that James utilizes during his shows is perfectly harmless, leading only to fun and mild embarrassment.

Having reassured the audience of the safety and confidentiality of his program, James then opened the floodgates to the wave of hands responding to his request for volunteers.

Once the "stars of the show," as James repeatedly referred to them, were seated onstage in a

half-circle formation, the real fun began. After the initial calming of the subjects, during which time the audience was asked to remain quiet and refrain from flash photography, James opened his demonstration of the power—and amusement—of suggestion to the subconscious mind by instructing the audience to fulfill the classic hypnosis cliché: "You're getting tired. You're relaxing. Your eyelids are getting so heavy," James informed them.

After lulling the students onstage into a peaceful state, attention was immediately turned to another subject, but not one onstage. It seemed that audience member Lisa Guzman was so soothed by James' instructions that she too nodded into a subconscious state. After James detected this unplanned subject, Guzman was brought onstage to join the other volunteers and the show continued.

The show proved to be as surprising and delightful as any of the audience members could have hoped. Sophomore Music Business major Allison Mathews, for one, got to experience the extreme enjoyment of observing the hypnosis.

"I liked it a lot," Mathews said. "I actually *did* it [volunteered] last year, so it was a lot of fun being on the *other* side this time."

The activities undertaken by the show's stars spanned everything from petting and naming imaginary birds to applying nonexistent sunscreen. Of course, the masses equally



Hypnotist Daniel James instructs student volunteers. (Photo courtesy of Stewart)

loved the edgy, and the fun was heightened by incidences such as the imitation of male strippers and, of course, sophomore Business Administration major

"I love this aspect of hypnosis purely because of the laughter and the fun. ~Daniel James"

Todd Laubhan's sporadic inquiry, "Who wants to pet my monkey?!" With all this and more, how could the audience *not* have enjoyed itself?

The student spectators were not the only ones pleased,

however. Equally satisfied was the SUB Executive Board, including advisor and SJC Coordinator of Student Activities and Intramurals Mark Brouwer.

"It went very well," Brouwer said. "We had a great student turnout. There were over 170 students here, and that's awesome."

Sophomore Mass Communication major and Director of Promotions Kaylee Hofmeister expressed her contentment as well.

"I thought it was amazing," she said. "Some people got really, really, into it, and all through it was fascinating. It was also impressive that Mr. James kept

everything amusing and edgy, but wholly clean and appropriate."

As for Daniel James himself, he counted the show a success.

"I love this aspect of hypnosis because of the laughter and the fun," he said. "It's such a great experience for both the audience and subjects. I'm licensed as a hypnotherapist, but I enjoy this element of the science because of all the enjoyment that can be derived from it."

Enjoyment was derived by all those present in the Halleck Ballroom for the event, and one can only hope that the next Student Union Board event will herald just as much revelry and student attendance.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembered, Honored at SJC

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer



James McBride (Photo courtesy of Koscielny)

Gone are the days of getting a three-day weekend to honor Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., at least here at SJC. Purdue and Ball State, as well as many other universities, still received the day off.

Digressing from this common complaint among Saint Joseph's College students, January 15 was still utilized for honoring MLK. The SJC Diversity Coalition and the Saint Joseph's College Faculty Assembly Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee planned a whole day of activities in honor of Rev. King's life.

"MLK had a huge impact on the direction of the United States, and really the entire world," John Keller, the Dean of Students said. "It is important honor him at least

one day a year, even though it really should be every day."

The day's activities began with a book signing. Critically acclaimed author James McBride signed his award-winning memoir *The Color of Water*, which has been popularized at SJC with its use in the Core 1 curriculum. For those students who sold their copies back, the bookstore was selling extra copies to be signed.

"I thought it was really cool that James McBride was here at SJC," freshman Math major Stephanie Storer said. "I was really upset that I couldn't get over to the Cafeteria in time to get my book signed."

After the book signing there was a march from the courthouse

in downtown Rensselaer back to the Saint Joseph's College Campus. Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S., opened the march with a beautiful prayer.

"As we march, we recall the blood of so many people shed through violence on our streets and throughout the world," he said. "Let us heed the words of Dr. King as he said 'Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.'"

About 100 people, consisting of SJC students, faculty, and people from the Rensselaer community, made the approximately one mile march from the courthouse with police escorts.

After returning, the main

program began in the Shen Auditorium. During the program, awards were presented for the Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest. Winning at the college level was sophomore Biology-Chemistry major Lauren Stoffel.

"The topic was about MLK's message of unity applying to today," Stoffel said. "My essay was entitled 'Unity in the SJC Community.' It was about how the students, staff, and faculty could be more unified if they followed the words of MLK."

The culmination of the day's events was McBride speaking during the program. He was well-received by all who listened. He also stayed after the program to answer any questions the audience had for him.

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# SJC Mourns Loss of Teacher, Friend Eileen Kerlin

By Katherine Stembel, Co-Editor-in-Chief

SJC lost inspirational teacher and devoted friend Eileen C. Kerlin on December 30, 2006. A graduate of SJC, Kerlin passed away after giving years of her life to educating. She served as a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher for 14 years at Rensselaer Central Middle School and taught for three years in the SJC Core Program, impacting students with her enthusiasm and genuine compassion.

"She really wanted to get to know her students and learn about who they were," said senior Criminal Justice major Amanda Overfelt, who took Kerlin's section of Core 7 on India and China. "I looked forward to going to her classes every day. I'd always stay after class and talk to her and she would ask about my family, how I was doing in my



Eileen Kerlin, Mar. 16, 1957-Dec. 30, 2006

other classes, and what I wanted to do after I graduated."

"We are definitely going to miss her," she continued. "She always was smiling and made it a point to make others smile and brighten up their day."

Kerlin brought class material to life for her students by including additional information that enhanced the academic experience.

"She brought a whole bunch of Indian food into class and we sat around eating it and discussing," said senior English-Creative Writing major Teresa Moreno, who also took Kerlin's section of Core 7 in fall 2005. "I also remember being at my first English major banquet and she just came up to me and introduced herself. She was always really welcoming."

"She was a presence within the closely-knit community of English majors, and she would do almost anything for one of them," Moreno continued. "She was in no way obligated to do something like that, but she would go out of

her way. She was truly one of the kindest teachers who wanted to see her students succeed."

In addition to her professional life of teaching, she was wife to Professor of English Charles Kerlin and mother to Scott, 21, a student at SJC and Haley, 16, a student at Rensselaer Central High School.

She also involved herself in community volunteer opportunities such as the Prairie Arts Council of Rensselaer, serving on the board of directors. A member of Rensselaer Mainstreet, Prairie Writers Guild, and an elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Kerlin was also a fused glass artist and a published writer.

Kerlin was more than a teacher; she was a friend. She will be greatly missed.

## Comedienne Marianne Sierk Disappoints Audience

By Elizabeth R. Hall, Staff Writer

The new executive board of SJC's SUB faced their first mission for Thursday, January 11. The task consisted of hiring an act for the infamous Thursday night programming. They came up with Marianne Sierk, a 30-year-old stand-up comedienne from the greater Los Angeles area.

This being the first event of the second semester for the new executive board, freshman English major Joe Stewart, SUB treasurer, said that it actually was

not a bad turnout considering the fact. Stewart also mentioned that given that it was the first undertaking by the board, it was more of a learning experience than anything.

However, he said that Sierk's humor was not what many people, including Stewart himself, had expected.

"We could certainly look for improvement," he said.

Several SJC students came to a similar conclusion.

"There were some high points to the show, but overall I wasn't impressed," said freshman Theatre major Rachael Kooi. "She seemed like she had no clue where she was going next, giving the show a choppy, patched-up feel."

In spite of the performance not being what was expected, the atmosphere seemed to be one-sided when it came to the audience. However, one of the high points was the fact that

Sierk was interactive with the audience, both vocally and physically.

Sierk also seemed very excited to be able to visit SJC and entertain. She said that she would have no qualms with returning to Saint Joseph's College for another show at a later date.

If you have any ideas for additional events, contact the Coordinator of Student Activities and Intramurals Mark Brouwer at mbrouwer@saintjoe.edu.

## SJC Dean's List for First Semester of 2006-2007

Jessica Conlin, Joseph Petrucci, Stephanie Storer, Erik Dunn, Melissa Rind, Bridget Callahan, Erin Delaney, Amy Genova, Joseph Larson, Timothy Larson, Laura Courtney, Ricardo Ayala, Aaron Ruter, Kirsten Magnuson, Joel Jaeger, Richard Mayer, Tara McCauley, Margaret Broderick, Simmie Border, Heather Shelton, Katherine Vanderkolk, Gretchen Keeslar, Samuel Albano, Zachary Wajvoda, Lyndsi Monjon, Ashley Moore, Allison Chappell, Brian McLeish, Veronica Terkhorn, Daniel Waclaw, Shawn Bishop, Luke Krizek, Stephanie Comiskey, Michelle Anderson, Holly Estill, Briana Franz, Andrew Jendraszak, Caitlin Henry, Marcus Wagner, Michael Bowman, Adam Deno, Jamie Kingseed, Rebecca Willis, Kimberly Klaus, Marina Aburto, Megan Gorton, Benjamin Kalinowski, Jessica Howard, Shannon Williams, Anisha Gohil, Kathryn Steiner, Sarah Vaughn, Tasha Hocking, Heather Madden, Alycea McNary, Elisabeth Wilkins, Kathryn Richhart, Abigail Edwards, McKensy Wietbrock, Nicole Pickens, Brittney Bertsch, Jaime Gingerich, Michael Crowthers, Sarah Fingerhut, Payne Schoen, James Smith, Katherine Stembel, Blain Reed, Kristin Ewen, Lori Garcia, Elizabeth Gray, Julie Myers, Leslie Rowan, Jordan Henley, Stephanie Buck, Kelly Brown, Kathryn Egan, Joy Trendelman, Gregory Boo, Angela Shaver, Bailey Snider, Jeffrey Lawrence, Gabriele Nichols, Kristi Short, Stephanie Sonderman, Lonnie Hurst, Shane Powell, Sandra Blum, Anna Schlater, Travis Kahle, Lydia Little, Mary Baltes, Danielle Stockmaste, Rachel Cobean

## Thoughts from A-Broad

## Holiday Differences: Did the Baby Jesus Visit Your Home?



Elizabeth Genova

When November 17 hit Austria, I knew it was time for the Christmas spirit to start showing itself. I expected all of the normal fixin's...Christmas songs blaring from every store and restaurant, sales, sales, sales, a winter wonderland, and of course Krampus, complete with chains, a sack of onions, and a meter-long tongue to chase young children around with at night...Well, to say the least, I was a little surprised when my newly-witnessed Austrian traditions varied so greatly from the familiar U.S. customs.

All of the Christmas Markets (Kristkindlmärkte) opened in Vienna on November 17. Since there is no Halloween or Thanksgiving here to gauge when the Christmas season should start, the Austrians are more than eager to have something to celebrate early. The market in front of city hall was amazing and complete with ponies, singing animals on a stage (similar to Chuck E. Cheese's), and the most delicious smelling and looking things you could imagine. Unfortunately, like fairs back home, everything was insanely expensive, leaving me to just look and smell!

After the opening of the Kristkindlmärkte (with about 11 scattered throughout the city), the next big holiday is Saint

Nikolai's Day on December 6. Some of you may be familiar with the English Counterpart: the Feast of Saint Nicholas, when children leave out their shoes and slippers the night before, hoping they will be filled with sweets and fruits in the morning. For the occasional bad child, coal is left behind instead.

The Austrian and American traditions diverge exactly at this point with the addition of Krampus. Krampus is a mythological figure passed down for centuries in Austria. He is a trickster and frightening devil who is the bad friend of Saint Nikolai. When kids are bad, good ol' Saint Nick will leave them oranges and chocolates, but over here in Austria, Krampus does his dirty work by leaving potatoes, onions, or coal.

But, if that weren't bad enough, Krampus can be seen running around in the villages at night with whips and chains, beating anyone in his path to the point of welts and bruises. In reality, this is a problem for some villages. Teenagers dress up in Krampus masks and whip girls on their way home. I have talked to 20-year-old students who were terrified to go back home on December 5 because of this reason! Some cities cut down on the chaos by hiring people as Krampuses, and they wear mandatory numbers so the citizens know who is attacking them.

Krampus and Saint Nikolai chocolate figurines are sold in

pairs for the occasion, and Krampus is always depicted with an extra long tongue because of his reputation of searching after, finding, and surprising sleeping maidens.

The next major holiday is Maria Empfängnis Day (the Immaculate Conception), which fell on December 8 this year. Austria is Catholic in name, and this and most religious holidays are national holidays, when everything is closed by law.

Next, we come to the issue of what day to celebrate Christmas on. I, like many non-Austrians, naturally assumed December 25. Wrong. It is celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and if you wish someone a Merry Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup>, you are a day too late and even thought a little rude.

Christmas traditions themselves are very similar: eat a great dinner (fish primarily as the meat) with family, read a Christmas story with everyone gathered 'round, attend midnight mass (which is on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup>), and when the family returns, they sing holiday songs like "Silent Night," and enter the room where presents are waiting around the decorated tree.

A small difference is the person who brings the presents; In the United States, it is the classic Coca-Cola depicted Santa Claus, but in Austria, the children will give you funny looks if you ask what they asked Santa for. In Austria, the Christkind, or Christ Child, comes. When I first heard about this, I was a little amused

and curious. I pictured a little 6 pound 2ounce baby Jesus crawling out of his manger and through the living rooms of the world!

However, I further learned to my disappointment that somehow the two icons of the "Baby Jesus" and the "Christkind" are separate. On a side note, it is interesting that Americans are often stereotyped as being very capitalistic and eliminating the real spirit of Christmas and the root of the celebration (the birth of Christ), while in Austria, the Christ Child is the one bringing the gifts!

Although the main celebration of Christmas is on December 24, December 25 is an observed holiday as well, mainly used for relaxing and family visits. When the leftovers run out, it is time to go to the grocery stores, which have been closed for the past two days, but there is a problem: it is another national holiday, Saint Stephen's Day. Everything except kebab stands are closed to observe this day in church (truthfully, not many attend the masses, though). After three full days of holiday celebrations, not many are willing to return to normal life; therefore, most everything is closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> just because!

In case you were curious, December 31 (Sylvester), January 1 (New Year's Day), and January 6 (Three King's Day) are also national holidays, meaning the main streets are lifeless. I never realized how truly American I



Krampus, bad friend of Saint Nikolai was until I found myself frustrated by the lack of supply for my demands! People have to eat, right? But there are no stores or restaurants open!

It was a hard realization to come to, but I had to accept that the basic economic laws that apply back home do not apply in the twilight zone called Austria. Money does not govern life, and the people have no desire for it to. Although Austria has Western ideology, it is still very traditional. Is it possible to have too much of good thing? The "holiday" in Austria could serve to substantiate the old adage.

However, I never once heard someone in Austria say, "I want..." or "I hope to get..." Also, there were no crowded shopping malls with Christmas songs on repeat. I learned a great deal about Austrian culture and values, and it's difficult to say which approach to celebration I prefer more. I believe a combination would be perfect: a healthy dose of capitalism at its finest with plenty of unnecessary shopping, and a holiday every other day to recover.



## Houlding: Offense Number XLI

**Brent J. Houlding** *Opinions Editor*

Happy New Year boys and girls. I hope the semester is starting out well for all of you. Let's jump right into it.

1. I'm going to set my biases aside for a moment. Complaining will come later in the article. Oh yes, it will come. So, are these playoffs great or what? Three three point games in Divisional play, including that overtime barn burner in Chitown. This week featured the long-coming vindication of one Peyton Manning. The NFL couldn't plan this any better. I'm sure others will shove predictions in your face, but let me assure the final score of Superbowl XLI will be Colts 30, Bears 21.

2. I love the new food court. "Food Court?", you say. "Don't you mean cafeteria?" No longer. Read the article over yonder —> to see why. Anywho, I know it's only been two weeks, but I'm already convinced. The new guy cleaned shop quickly, and the effects are apparent. The cups are bigger, the pizza is tastier, the variety is better...the list goes on. A hearty and full kudos to everyone involved with the food court improvements.

3. Core 6. The jury is still out. The lectures are still dry and with a mild regurgitated feeling (Punnett squares? Seriously. No



offense, but we had to create full pedigrees in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. You know, when I was 12.) However, I can sense the "boom" Dr. Brodman alluded to in his article a few months ago approaching much more quickly than last semester (and by more quickly, I mean at all). My fear for the moment is that "Humanity in the Universe II" will turn into "Cripes I'm Tired of Hearing about Evolution". We shall see, we shall see.

4. An interlude: time for some sentences to appease a limited audience. Planar Chaos looks amazing. Leisure and Recreation is potentially the most, well, leisurely class ever. Well, at least

I'm not Laverne this time. Little known fact: Airplanes fly in the air. Barack Obama, in or out? Probing council my hiney. See the play!

5. Time for the aforementioned complaining. Colts and Bears. It's ugly. Very ugly. For a Packers fan with an irrational dislike of Peyton Manning, times are tough. At home in Illinois, I have my Bear supporting friends riding me. Here I have to endure the jeers of Bears fans, as well the taunts of Peyton Manning lovers. Did you know that purely geographically speaking, latitude and longitude wise, that we are situated a mere 19 miles from the dead center of Soldier Field and the RCA Dome? No really, I did the math myself. Not a good place for a Packer Backer. My advance condolences to Coach Massoels, as I'm sure his next weeks will be just as horrific, if not worse, than mine. Life is not good in the sports world. In fact, it hasn't been so for a while. In fact, not since I came to SJC. I knew moving to campus with a Halas hall was poor college planning. The White Sox, the Cardinals, and now a Super Bowl that can't help but end in pain. I quit sports, I swear. Maybe the Jazz can do something to lift my spirits.

## Picasso at the Lapin Agile Offers Smart Laughs at Discount Price

**By Mike Koscielny** *Staff Writer*

Have you ever had thoughts of "If (insert famous person) and (insert famous person) met at a bar, I wonder what they would talk about"? Come January 25 through the 27, the Colombian Player's will be answering that question. The Players will be presenting the play "Picasso at the Lapin Agile." Written by famous comedian and actor Steve Martin, he tries to answer the question "If Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso met in a bar, what would they talk about?" Being a one act play, it runs around 75 minutes in length.

The plot is basically summed up by the previously stated question. The story is set in a French bar at the beginning of the twentieth century. The bartender, Freddie (senior History major Andrew Jendraszak), displays art in his bar, attracting Sagot (sophomore Theatre major David Santangelo), a concerned art dealer and even Picasso (junior English major Cord Atkinson) himself. Along with the sexually obsessed

Gaston (sophomore Computer Science major Jason Keller), the bar exists comfortably within the realm of normalcy.

Things get odd when Einstein (junior Math/Theater major BJ Houlding) shows up too early awaiting the arrival of his friend, who is supposed to meet him at another bar. From there, a barrage of unique and interesting characters, including a "visitor" from the future, come through making for some interesting happenings.

The first thing I noticed is that the comedy is smart. There are quite a few quirky lines under the radar that are down right funny. It's also a very quick funny. A joke or gag will come and the next will be nipping right at its heels, that is, if jokes had heels to be nipped. The philosophical jokes between Einstein and Freddie are some of the best in the play. Another bright spot in the play occurs when the characters discuss their predictions for the future century.



Above: Einstein doin' his groove thang  
Below: Historians suggest Picasso may have done crack.

Another source of good humor in the play is when the characters break the fourth wall. Breaking the fourth wall is when characters will talk directly to the audience, making the audience aware that they are viewing a work of fiction. It occurs at multiple points during the play, giving way to some interesting monologues.

Senior Art Education major Andy McKim and freshman Chemistry major Royce Robley do amazing jobs with their roles, adding to the hilarity of the play. Showing in the College Theatre at 8 p.m. on January 25, 26 and 27, it makes for no excuse why everyone in the student body cannot make it out for some good laughs at least once to see "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."

Director of the play and theatre professor, John Rahe, had this to say about the play, "I think it's a talented cast and they do a wonderful job. It's a complicated script with some very adult humor. They do a very good job."

## Bon Appetite!

(An interview with the new food guy)

**By Elizabeth Hall,** *Staff Writer*

Eric Braun is a 47-year-old father of one and a husband of 24 years. He is also the new head of our cafeteria. He was born and raised in Fort Wayne and his hobbies include hunting and fishing as well as enjoying comedy. Both he and his wife, originally from North Judson, are graduates of Purdue University. After graduating from Purdue, with a BS in Psychology and Masters in Restaurant and Hotel Management, he worked for their food services department. He also worked at Kansas State and Wright Patterson Air Force Base as their food services director. Amidst this he was also the catering director for Huntington College. He was also the proud owner of his own restaurant and catering business for about 20 years. When asked what he liked most about being here at Saint Joe he said it was close to home. He said that given the fact that his father is gravely ill he wanted to stay close to home just in case something were to happen to him unexpectedly. However, that was not the only reason. He and his wife are looking forward to their son Conrad attending Tri-State University for their golf management program. Another reason that he liked it here so much is the fact that he is able to practice his faith publicly considering the fact that we are a Catholic facility.

When Eric was asked if he thought that he was well received by the student body he said absolutely. During the first few days of his employment here at Saint Joe he began meeting and greeting students and faculty as they came into the cafeteria. He also gave away trinkets and was just trying to have fun with the community of SJC. All the institutions that he worked for had nicknames for him from Eric to Chef to Food Guy and he said that we can call he either of or a culmination of all three. Considering the fact that he works with food I thought that it would be fitting to ask him what his favorite food was. His response to the question was Foie Gras. For those who don't know what Foie Gras is, it is goose and duck liver pate. Amidst all the conversation I asked him if he thought that there



Mmm...(courtesy of www.oznet.ksu.edu)

were going to be any changes within the caf. He said that there was going to be a paradigm shift. First off, he would like the cafeteria referred to as the food court instead and over the next twelve weeks he want to put tomato soup in the grill to accompany the grilled cheese sandwiches as well as a new specialty sandwich everyday for lunch. Also on the pizza he wants to put veggies, as well as calzones and vegetarian cheesy


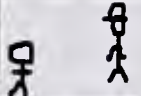


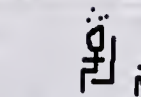



Hopes I'm sure we all hold for the new incarnation of the food court.(courtesy of foodsan.anamai.moph.go.th)

bread. He also wants to do major holiday themes, such as breakfast with Santa for which he is looking for volunteers to be Santa as well as his elves and the Easter Bunny and an Easter Village that will both be outreach for the community. Finally I asked him where he saw himself within the next ten years and his reaction was that he told Randy Freebourn that, "they would have to drag me out of here either kicking & screaming or on a stretcher." So, if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to say hello, Eric's office is located right outside the HUB and he is happy to serve you.

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<b>Do: Come see the play this weekend in the theater, beginning at 8 p.m.</b>	<b>Do: Bring your (legally) slightly buzzed but not yet drunk friends to the play to boost the level of laughter.</b>	<b>Don't: Bring rotten fruit and vegetables to heckle and pelt the actors with. Seriously. Tomatoes hurt.</b>



# Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



EL PERRO DEL MAR

Pretentiousness is a dish best served pale. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.thestar.com/CD%20Review/article/165283>)

## Assbring Exhibits Skill in Singing, Poor Planning in Choosing Stage Name

Following in the footsteps of Chan Marshal, Sarah Assbring is an amazing one-woman show with a great alias to hide behind. *El Perro Del Mar*, which literally means "the sea dog," is Assbring's chosen stage name. Like the sea, her voice is cool and has a beauty that remains very blue. The timbre is unusual but still pleasant to the ear. The paintbrush that is her voice paints images using soft strokes while the colors she uses are somber tones.

On a whole, the self-titled album has a bittersweet sound. Assbring's voice rings out with a sort of saddened urgency while a chorus of voices provides support. The main vocal line almost sounds as if she recorded the album right before she was due for a good cry. The background voices provide a nice medium between solitude and a breath of freshness.

Much of the album has influences of standard pop from the late fifties and early sixties. Background voices "ooh" and "aah" and mix in the occasional "sha la la la." The song "Party" even features a chorus of "be bop, be bop be lou lah." Assbring's voice, however, does not make these traits sound cheesy or ultra poppy. Instead, her sullen voice,

filled to the brim with melancholy, adds flair to the background vocals. She manipulates this classic characteristic and makes it conform to what she wants. The "doo wops," in the end, seem to echo the same despondency that the main vocal line carries.

From track to track, there is a common theme of sadness. This is exemplified in the repetitiveness of the lyrics and musical structure. These songs are constructed in a very simple sense. There are only a few layers, but they are vividly present. While musical and lyrical repetitiveness is often interpreted as poor artistry, it works in this rare case. The loneliness she discusses in the track, "This Loneliness" embodies her style in the sense that her feelings and emotions are in their purest form. "This Loneliness ain't pretty no more. Loneliness only taking the place of a friend." These lyrics are clear; she's lonely, and loneliness is the only friend she has. This clear-cut idea works in tandem with the orchestration. It's apparent what she's feeling and she doesn't need to have fancy ornamentation. The idea is basic, and as a result the music is, too. *El Perro Del Mar* is simple, melancholy, and beautiful.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:  
Originality: 8  
Lyrics: 7  
Music: 7  
Cover Art: 7  
Total: 7.25/10

# The Whale and the Squid Wrangles for Custody of Our Hearts

By Gabriele Nichols, Staff Writer

*The Squid and the Whale* manages an interesting feat. By examining divorce from the perspective of the children caught between parents, it manages to create an extremely sad, honest, but darkly funny movie. Unlike such over-the-top looks at breakup like the violent *War of the Roses*, *The Squid and the Whale* feels honest while avoiding sappy or cloying moments.

The movie begins simply enough with a tennis match, which brilliantly sets up the situation. Father Bernard Berkman is over-competitive and afraid of failure, mother Joan just wants to enjoy herself, and both children have their favored parent. Soon little moments build towards the inevitable "family meeting." The parents split, and the children are left to deal with new problems in life. Much of this brilliantly depicts the child's point of view, noticing bits and pieces of conflict but not getting the whole picture until later.

The humor of the movie comes not only from the usual absurdities of divorce and awkwardness of growing up, but also the bizarre nature of intellectuals. Bernard Berkman is an academic and formerly successful writer who is obsessed with being intellectual. Great books are "minor works" of certain authors, films must be artistic, and anyone not on his level of thought is a "philistine." His degraded situation, with his wife finding new success as a writer while he heads towards

obscurity, only fuels his efforts to turn his children into miniature versions of himself.

The children of the movie also manage to give an amazing performance for their age. Owen Kline as younger brother Frank plays a child sad and somewhat confused, discovering vices usually left until the teenage years. Jesse Eisenberg, as older brother Walt, manages to believably depict a teenager dealing with love and paternal hero worship as the former develops and the latter begins to crumble. Noel Baumbach has crafted and directed a truthful

vision of youth, not a hollow vision of what those years are supposed to be like.

Films that are weird, quirky, and critically beloved like *The Squid and the Whale* are usually not relatable to real emotions. However, the unconventional feel only manages to allow the film to develop into an accurate picture of life. There is failure and degradation, but there is also change, revelations, and hope for the future. The movie demands thought afterwards, but does not leave the audience unfulfilled. 4.5 out of 5



Relationship problem number one: you married a squid. Relationship problem number two: not enough cuddling. (Photo courtesy of <http://alpha.fdu.edu/~boyer/GiantSquid.jpeg>)

## Shopgirl Better as a Movie, Proves Reading is Inferior

By Elizabeth Bessette, Staff Writer

Being the avid reader that I am, I have the tendency to wander into my roommate's room and pick up whatever book she has laying around. In one instance she had a book written by Steve Martin sitting on top of a semi-organized pile of papers. It was called *Shopgirl*. I remembered as I opened it that it had recently been made into a movie. I sat on my roommate's bed and read the first chapter, then asked if I could borrow the movie. The book is not very long (only 130 pages), so it only took me one night to read it and watch the movie. I am a great lover of books, and my mind revolts as I write this, but don't bother with the book; just see the movie.

*Shopgirl* follows the love trials and tribulations of



I've never seen *Shopgirl*, but based on this photo I can make a few assumptions: The girl in the middle just learned she's pregnant with homophobic scorpions. The young man to the right just realized the incredible irony of impregnating a girl with homophobic scorpions despite the notable handicap of being gay. Steve Martin just remembered he left his cat in the oven. The author of this article just realized she should have written more to prevent the editor from writing a caption that's a paragraph long. Then she was killed by homophobic scorpions and a cat that was very well done. And thus concludes the greatest children's book ever. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.celebritywonder.com/mp/2005\\_Shopgirl/2005\\_shopgirl\\_wallpaper\\_001.jpg](http://www.celebritywonder.com/mp/2005_Shopgirl/2005_shopgirl_wallpaper_001.jpg))

Mirabelle, a medically depressed art college graduate who works behind the glove counter at Neiman Marcus. She meets a boy named Jeremy at the Laundromat, and they begin an extremely awkward relationship. A few days

included as a teaser, held my attention far better than the book it was included in. Next time, I'm just going to read that one.



Revenge of the Gnomes

By Joe Larson, *Convict in Training*

*If you're looking to be disappointed by my usual lame jokes and failed attempts at humor, direct your attention two columns to the right. The article below is something completely different. It stems from obligations I incurred within the past two weeks through the college's communal penalty system. It's not easy being an outlaw.*

I thought I had a firm grasp on the difference between right and wrong, but I recently learned a hard lesson about personal responsibility I somehow failed to pick up in my first 16 years in the Catholic school system. Near the end of the 2005-6 school year, I signed up for an apartment with four other people. That summer, I went back to Danville, Illinois, for an internship while my then-future roommates moved into Bennett Hall for classes or jobs on campus. I filled my days by working for a newspaper; they filled their nights by stealing lawn gnomes.

There are few secrets on such a small campus, even during the summer. News of the thefts and the identities of its perpetrators spread quickly, first through Bennett Hall and then to a sizable portion of the student body thanks to the wonders of the internet. It also reached the *Rensselaer Republican*, minus the identity of the perpetrators. The small-town paper ran a story explaining how the offenses, which individually might be taken as youthful acts of debauchery, together amounted to a Class D Felony. My then-future roommates got scared and stopped stealing. They abandoned or returned most of their ill-gotten wares, but they held onto a few of the gnomes along with a copy of the article from the *Rensselaer Republican*.

I was thrown into a very uncomfortable position when I moved into an apartment with the former gnome thieves at the start of the 2006-7 school year. I didn't want to be the one to report them to the police when so many other people knew as much as I did but declined to do the same. Helping to put a felony conviction on someone's record, especially for something as trivial as lawn gnomes, is a fast way to lose friends, I surmised. I also didn't want to become involved in a crime committed months before I returned to campus by helping to cover it up after-the-fact. That meant I wasn't going to take down the article about the thefts or demand the thieves hide any other evidence, no matter how obvious.

By my twisted logic, that left me with one option: inaction. My untenable plan was to neither turn in my roommates nor help them cover up the theft, but rather to occupy a position of neutrality. I would make no effort to reveal to the authorities the past actions of my roommates, but at the same time I would do nothing to decrease the likelihood of the authorities discovering what my roommates had done. I wasn't going to rat them out, but I

wasn't going to lie to protect them either. I came up with numerous excuses to justify my inaction, but the truth of the matter was I lacked the moral character to turn in my friends for something they did long before I lived with them.

Everybody knows how the story ends, or at least they do if they were in the sizable portion of the student body that has been aware of the gnome thieves' identities since June, 2006. Over Christmas break, someone on security finally noticed the article and the gnomes when closing our apartment. All four of my roommates got evicted from the unit, and charges are pending with the Jasper County prosecutor. Because I didn't turn them in, I had to go through the college's standard disciplinary channels. More harmful than the actual disciplinary process was the damage to my reputation. I'm a straight-A student on a full-ride scholarship, and suddenly I had professors asking me if I was getting expelled from school.

Looking back, the right course of action was clear but far from easy. I should have forced my roommates to turn themselves in. That would have improved their positions in the eyes of the law. It also would have ensured the victims of the lawn gnome thefts were compensated for their property loss as quickly as possible. I might have ruined our friendships and I would have been tormented by guilt, but it would have worked out better for everyone involved.

Going back over this series of events isn't a fruitless exercise. The gnome thieves didn't live in a vacuum. They have friends, teammates, girlfriends, and acquaintances, most of whom knew what the four individuals did over the summer. Of all the people aware of the situation, myself included, not a single person made any attempt to alert campus security or the police. Most people who ask me about the incident afterwards wonder not why I failed to turn in my roommates, but rather why I didn't help them cover up their crime by taking down the article and hiding the gnomes. As college students, we sometimes bend the line between right and wrong because we don't want to get someone in trouble. The truth of the matter is that when someone breaks the law, they get themselves in trouble. Questions of morality aren't easy to answer when they involve turning in friends to the police, but upholding the law is almost always the right course of action.

Wanted: Four Roommates by Tomorrow

By Joe Larson, *Co-Editor in Chief*

*My desire to be thrown out of school is low to moderate. If you're in a position of authority and looking for someone to expel today, please recognize the factually inaccurate and highly sarcastic nature of this article and then move on to pursuing the real criminals on campus, like people who used to live with gnome thieves.*

Due to the recent and surprisingly-bloody fall of the lawn gnome cartel, I need four new roommates by tomorrow or I have to move out of my apartment. My four former roommates were evicted last week for stealing small ceramic and cement figures over the summer. The thefts twice made the front page of the *Rensselaer Republican*, which I guess means for the last several months I've been living with the greatest

need exclusive access to both of them at all times, but my new roommates can feel free to use the patio if they really need to relieve themselves. Frankly, I recommend holding it until the end of the year. I've been informed that the apartment also has a kitchen, but the space it supposedly occupies is currently so overrun with unwashed dishes and other refuse that such speculation is impossible to confirm. I guess that means anyone who lives with me won't have access to running water, but as a tradeoff I'll give you a sword to fight off any bacteria-related monsters that might emerge from the kitchen sink. One amenity I'm sure the apartment has is an adequate heating system. I never did learn how to work the thermostat, but the barrel fire I started in the living room keeps the temperature around 68 degrees throughout the year. Additionally, the second-story location is conducive to all sorts of extreme sports, like bungee jumping and dropping barrel fires on unsuspecting people below.

That's what's available in terms of living arrangements. In order to take advantage of them, you'll have to demonstrate what you have to offer as a potential roommate. My former roommates stole the gnomes before I lived with them, and when they went down for it several months later, I went down, too. To avoid a recurrence of that situation, I'll have to do extensive background checks on anyone who wants to live with me. I tend to be a fairly laid back individual, so I'll go ahead and overlook up to one time-out if it occurred before kindergarten. Beyond that, if you've ever done so much as had a cavity, you might as well change your name and move to Mexico. Seriously, I'll rat you out to the toothpaste corporations and they'll slaughter your entire family. I don't know why the oral hygiene industry conducts gangland-style hits on potential customers; I also don't know why fish swim. It's just what they do. You'll also be considered ineligible for the apartment if you've ever had the flu for more than three days or were born with original sin. That whittles down the field to one potential roommate, but I doubt Jesus will move in with me since he seems pretty comfortable in Seifert.

These requirements might seem daunting, but there's a good reason why you should strive to meet them: it's dangerous not to. After getting in trouble for not turning in my roommates for something they did before I lived with them, I now plan to narc on everybody for everything. I've already got a few targets on my snitching agenda. The first item on my list is a sign advertising tomatoes that's posted in front of one of the apartments. I have reason to suspect the residents of the apartment aren't tomato

farmers at all and that their sign is either stolen property or maliciously false advertising. For one thing, I have yet to notice any tomato fields in the vicinity of the apartment, although I suppose someone could've nestled a few of the plants among all the marijuana that's being grown there. Some might argue that the tomatoes could be shipped in from somewhere else to be sold at the apartment, but school policy explicitly forbids the presence of grocers and other professionals of ill repute. I'm fairly confident on that one since campus security shut me down when I tried to open a Kroger in Gallagher last year. I'm also sure that Indiana isn't known for it's rolling tomato fields, which means the sign was probably stolen from someplace across state lines. That's why I got the FBI involved. I expect the tomato sign cartel to crumble shortly, and when it does, everyone who ever walked past the obviously-stolen sign and didn't report it will go down, too. That category includes almost every student and faculty member on campus who can get around without the aid of a Seeing Eye dog, and even in that situation it would probably be appropriate to have the dog put down and charge the blind person with a misdemeanor. Fortunately for everyone involved, the attorney general might not have enough evidence to prosecute the greatest scandal in the history of American colleges. A few days after the gnome cartel fell to a joint raid by the SWAT team and the Third Armored Division, the tomato sign cartel got scared and hid their stolen property. I'm patiently waiting to see if the sign reemerges. If it does, I'll either be responsible for the greatest bust of all time or find myself buying a basketful of home-grown tomatoes.

Crime at this college isn't limited to students posing as tomato farmers, although that does comprise a large part of it. In apartments and dorm rooms across campus, there are people who possess signs for brands of beer which they neither produce nor are sponsored by. It seems somewhat doubtful that these 20-foot banners were obtained by legitimate means, although maybe Budweiser really did decide to reward some of its most valued underage drinkers with large advertisements usually reserved for outdoor festivals. Furthermore, many student residences boast stop signs and other traffic indicators even though it seems doubtful that dorm rooms qualify as publicly-recognized thoroughfares. I venture nearly every person on campus has at some point seen something that could reasonably be assumed to be stolen. There's only one solution: expel everybody and get a fresh start. To be honest, most of us are jerks anyway, so it really wouldn't be a loss for the school. It would also give all of us a chance to start early on our prison sentences for the tomato sign incident.



(Photos and idea courtesy of <http://tiny.depair.com/root/raice.php>, <http://depair.com/mis2430priv.html>, and [http://images.amazon.com/images/P/800001349v\\_01\\_AZ0EDDFJDDRGX\\_LZ7ZZZZZ.jpg](http://images.amazon.com/images/P/800001349v_01_AZ0EDDFJDDRGX_LZ7ZZZZZ.jpg))

criminal masterminds this city has ever seen. Their cunning tactics for covering up their crimes included cutting out the article about said crimes and then hanging it up above the stolen gnomes, which were left in plain view in the apartment and on the balcony for the duration of the school year. It can hardly be described as the shock of the century that their clever scheme came crashing down, although it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the federal government and its nine-month long gnome theft sting.

Having been driven from the apartment by the college's disciplinary system, my former roommates now live as vagabonds on the intramural field, where they are constantly harassed by the free-range lawn gnomes they once attempted to confine. After spending several months living with the most prolific gnome thieves in the history of Jasper County, I still have no idea what lawn gnomes do, but feasting on the flesh of the living seems like a good guess. If I hope to avoid joining my roommates on the gnome feeding grounds, I need to convince four people to pony up several hundred dollars and occupy the rooms the felons left behind.

For those who are interested, let me stress that there are several advantages to living in my apartment. For one thing, there's plenty of space to store stolen lawn gnomes. For another, there are two bathrooms. Granted, I'll



## Men's Basketball Picks Up Big Conference Wins



Junior guard Ron Coleman (33) frustrates several Indianapolis defenders. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

By Andrew Costello,  
Sports Editor

The Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse is a place that I have become more familiar with my past few years as a Puma super fan. When I first set foot on campus, I was hesitant about how good the sports programs would be at a small college of around 1,000 in the middle of Indiana cornfields. When I visited the school several months earlier, I distinctly remembered my tour guide saying that the men's basketball team was very good and that the student body really supported them. I took such a comment with a grain of salt, considering that everyone loves college basketball. Lucky for me, I would be in for the ride of my life as a basketball fanatic here in Rensselaer.

The SJC men's basketball team is ready for another season of silencing the critics and restoring the beacon of tradition that is Puma athletics. Who could forget last year's magical 31-3 season that saw a 16-1 record at home (including NCAA tournament) and Great Lakes Valley Conference regular season and tournament championships. Despite last year's accolades, this year's squad looks to validate their depth and prominence as a perennial contender in the GLVC and region, as well as a factory of great basketball talent.

The starting lineup this year is drastically different from last year, as five new starters have emerged to guide the Pumas to the promised land. Senior guards Matt Comparato and Jonathan Pittman help lead the team and push the tempo on the court, while junior guards/forwards

Ronald Coleman and Devin Thomas look to frustrate defenders both on the perimeter and in the paint. Finally, sophomore forward Brandon Mayse looks to overcome last year's season-ending injury to be a dominant rebounding machine.

Currently 10-6, the Pumas are in the midst of conference play and are making a push to improve their resume for the Big Dance. This past week, the Pumas knocked off two ranked opponents at the fieldhouse, defeating then no. 25 Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville 57-46 last Thursday and upending number nine Quincy 67-63. Both wins put the Pumas only a half



Head Coach Richard Davis pleads his case to the referee. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

game behind Indianapolis in the Eastern division standings of the GLVC. The win over Edwardsville marked the first time in four years that Saint Joseph's had defeated the Cougars in regular season and tournament contests.

"This definitely was a big win for us," said sophomore rebounding sensation Brandon Mayse about the Edwardsville contest. "Our team continues to work hard and gets better everyday. We have had some ups and downs this season, but we are really starting to come together as a team and I think if we continue to improve our defense we will win a lot of games."

Part of the success for the Pumas this season has been the depth of the bench. Junior guard Matty Bush has fine-tuned his accuracy, as he has the team's best field-goal percentage from beyond the three-point arc (.471). Freshmen phenoms Austin Peebles and Andrew Helmer have also contributed from off the bench, gathering their share of steals.

"We have good production coming off the bench. Our bench can come in and provide us with defense and an offensive spark as well as keeping the intensity that our starters bring," said a confident Bush.

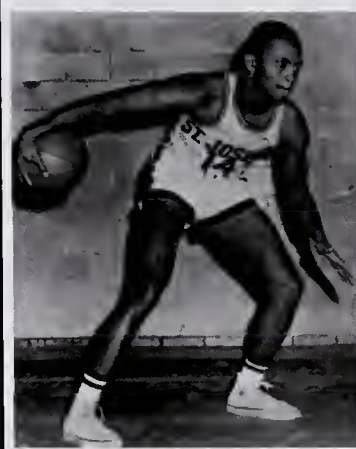
Assistant Coach David Burkett is confident that the Pumas can continue to have success down the home stretch of their conference schedule.

"I believe that this team will just keep getting better as the year goes along. For us to reach our full potential we have to defend every night, especially on the road," said Burkett.

The Pumas face off against Bellarmine tonight in Louisville and the Norse of Northern Kentucky University on Saturday in Highland Heights.



Sophomore forward Brandon Mayse (40) has schooled opponents in the paint. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).



## Former SJC All-American To Be Inducted Into Indiana Basketball Hall Of Fame

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame has announced that former Saint Joseph's College All-American **Robert A. Williams III '60** (above) has been selected as one of its 2007 inductees. Williams was a three-year letter winner for SJC (1957-60). He was an NAIA Little All-American selection after his junior season of 1958-59, when he averaged 22.0 points and 8.5 rebounds per game, as well as his senior season of 1959-60, when he put up 24.7 points and 9.3 rebounds per contest. He was named to the All-Indiana Collegiate Conference Team both years, and was selected as the ICC's Player of the Year as a junior. Williams graduated as the No. 2 career scorer at SJC, and currently ranks 12th all-time.

He still claims the highest individual single-game point total ever recorded in an SJC home game, scoring 45 points against Marian College on Feb. 27, 1960. Williams graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis in 1956. His crosstown rival was basketball legend Oscar Robertson, who led Crispus Attucks High School to an undefeated season that same year. Robertson was among the most vocal endorsers of Williams' induction to the Hall of Fame.

With his induction, Williams becomes the second Indiana Basketball Hall of Famer with ties to SJC. Art Cosgrove, who served as SJC's head basketball coach from 1946-50, was inducted to the Hall in 1978. Williams graduated with a degree in Accounting from SJC in 1960, and was inducted into the SJC Sports Hall of Fame in 1970. He currently resides in Andover, Mass.

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's 2007 Induction Ceremony is scheduled for Mar. 21 in Indianapolis. More information on the Hall of Fame and its inductees can be found at [www.hoopshall.com](http://www.hoopshall.com).

## Women's Basketball Shows Strength and Resilience

By Tyler Stouder, Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team has had anything but an ideal season so far. The Pumas started the season off 0-7 until getting their first win on December 19, a 49-47 decision against Central State (Ohio). From there, the Pumas looked to turn the season around as they picked up wins against Marian (Ind.) and Findlay. However, a loss against Hillsdale put the Pumas back down the losing road, as they have been 1-4 in the last 5 games. Yet there is still hope for a winning season as the Pumas have 11 games remaining in the season with the home closer on February 24 against Bellarmine. The Pumas are led by junior Allison Hughes



Senior forward Michelle Bova (25) has continued to prove that she is one of the most dominant and all-around players on the squad. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

who averages 15.8 points per game and by senior Michelle Bova who is averaging 12.3 a game, while leading the Great Lakes Valley Conference in rebounds with 9.1 per contest.

Before Saturday's game against Quincy, Bova needed just three rebounds to crack the top 10 career rebounding list at SJC. Besides solid play from the Puma starters, SJC also looks for great performances from bench play with everyone getting solid playing time and contributing in some way.



Second year head coach Amy Siegel's first year as head coach was filled with much acclaim, as she guided the Lady Pumas to a 10-game improvement from the 2004-2005 season. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

"Winning is not out of the question, it is frustrating losing close games, but at the same time we still have to pull through and continue to practice hard," said senior forward Ashley Fetgatter. "Nobody is giving up; there are still plenty of games left in the season."



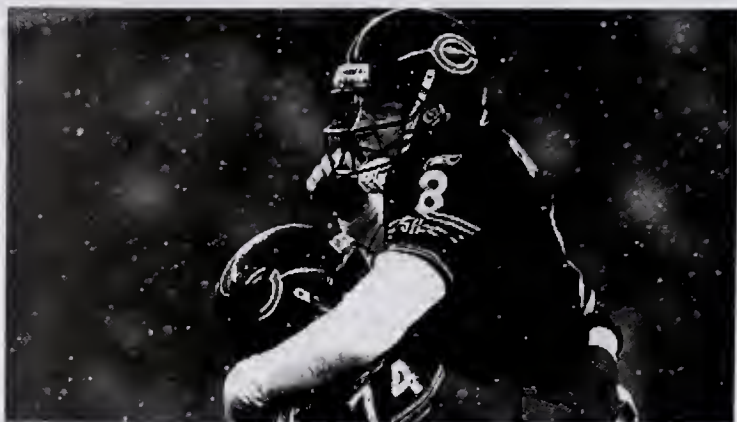
Allison Hughes is a force to be reckoned with on the court. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

The Lady Pumas next game is tonight as they travel to Bellarmine University on Thursday, tipping off at 5:45 p.m. local time. Saturday's contest is at Northern Kentucky with a 5:30 p.m. tipoff.

All men's and women's basketball statistics and quotes courtesy of Clark Teuscher.



## Super Bowl Shuffle Rekindled: Bears To Take On Colts In Super Bowl XLI



Rex Grossman (8) and Ruben Brown (74) celebrate a 39-14 win over the Saints. (Photo courtesy of ESPN.com photo gallery.)

**By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer**

The Vince Lombardi trophy is coming through I-65, but in just what direction will it be heading? Will it be heading south thanks to Peyton Manning as he adds to his resume the one thing he currently lacks, and by doing so makes it even more obvious that he is the best to ever play the position? Or will it head north, secured in the firm grasps of All-Pro linebackers Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs as they lead the Chicago faithful in the next rendition of the Super Bowl shuffle?

In either case, on Feb 4, 2007, Saint Joe will be a house divided. The energy in the air on that day should be something that we never forget, even if your favorite team ends up on the wrong end. I know I have made some bad predictions this year and trust me, they have been brought to my attention (see BCS picks and MLB playoff picks) but let me remind you of this, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, I chose the games of the year and even made a Super Bowl prediction. I went 7-0 in my picks for games of the year including picking the Patriots by four over the Bears (which trust me killed me to do). More impressive than that, however, was the last sentence of that story. **"So those are some 'can't miss' games to look forward to**

**this season. Check back later for my playoff and Super Bowl predictions, but as for now I'll take Bears vs Colts (Sonen 9-22-06)."**

Not saying I'm Miss Cleo or anything, because I am not, and if I was I would not be telling you my bets, but instead I'd call my bookie who Pete Rose hooked me up with. All this season has really done for any of us is prove that we all know nothing about anything and in football, like most sports, anything can happen. Coming into the playoffs, this match-up would be laughed at because the Colts and the Bears were the two most hated teams coming in. The Colts could not stop the run and the Bears were lead by "Turn-over-asaurus-Rex."

The Colts were supposed to lose to the Chiefs because the "experts" said Larry Johnson was unstoppable. Well, after 60 minutes Larry Johnson was going home. Then the Colts had to face "the amazing Baltimore D with its new and improved offence," at least that is what the "experts" said. They held that new and improved offense to six points. Then came Tom Brady and the Patriot jinx on Peyton Manning. Down 21-3 early in the game, it seemed as if the "experts" would be right. A few quarters later Peyton Manning showed why the "experts" say he is the best quarterback in football as he lead

the Colts to a last minute touchdown.

The "experts" said the Bears would lose their first game at home to a team they had beat by 31 earlier in the season, just as they had last year with Carolina. The "experts" said that the Saints would run all over the Bears, and that the Bears defense was nothing more than a mirage of what it used to be. The "experts" said Rex Grossman could not handle the pressures of the big game, especially when it was on the line. In fact, not one "expert" on ESPN.com picked the Bears to win.

Leading 18-14 in the third quarter, Rex Grossman quieted the "experts" in a drive that might change his career, and more importantly by holding the most potent offense in football to 14 points, the defense appears to be back, and just in time.

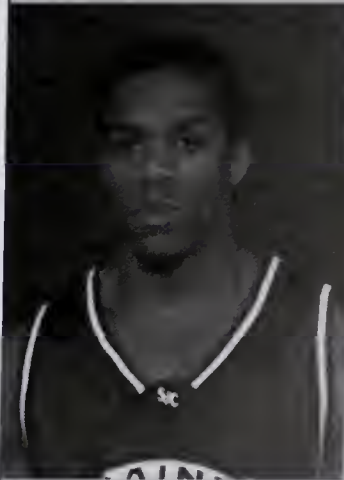
So what does this all mean, you ask? This means that no matter what happens this should be one hell of a game. While both teams average 26.7 points a game coming in, I expect a low scoring affair that could be decided by turnovers and field position. With that said, it appears that the "experts" are picking the Colts, and to that I say YES! Looks like we are going to have another Super Bowl shuffle.



Peyton Manning and Colts head coach Tony Dungy embrace after defeating the Patriots 38-34. The Colts are seven point favorites in the latest Vegas Super Bowl predictions. (Photo courtesy of Indianapolis Colts official website).

## Puma Basketball Profile: Jonathan Pittman

**By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor**



Jonathan Pittman is a senior guard from Massillon, Ohio. He has become a threat on the perimeter, as his shooting has become stellar this past year.

**1. How old were you when you started playing basketball?**

I was about 5 years old.

**2. Who is your role model?**

My Father and Tracy McGrady

**3. Thoughts on playing sports in college:**

It is a great experience and I'm thankful to have this opportunity.

**4. Favorite Movie:**

*All About the Benjamins*

**5. Favorite Quote:**

"He who has not carried your burden does not know what it weighs."

**6. If I could have dinner with one person, it would be....:**

Tracy McGrady

**7. Bears or Colts:**

Colts

**8. Any Hidden Talents:**

Singing

**9. What is the greatest obstacle you have overcome?**

Coming from a big high school in a city in which there is a lot of things to do, to coming here where the school is so little and nothing to do.

**10. Proudest moment as a Puma:**

Last year's basketball season as a whole, going 31-3 and winning the conference regular season and tournament, as well as hosting Regionals here on our campus.

## Track And Field Teams Do Well At Wabash Alumni Invite

**By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director**

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's track and field teams posted a second straight week of solid performances on Saturday at the Wabash College Alumni Invitational, winning 12 events and setting two new SJC records at the unscored meet. Nine of the event victories were posted by the SJC women's team, including a first-place finish in the pole vault by Allison Chappell (Sr., Lemont, IL), who broke her own school record with a clearance of 11'0", and a school-record distance of 49'7" in the 20-pound weight throw by Erin Salinas (Sr.,



Eric Kramer leads a talented senior class that looks to capture its first GLVC Indoor Track and Field Championship since 1999. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

Hampshire, IL), also good enough for the win.

Lydia Thompson (So., Frankfort, IN) won three events for the Lady Pumas, prevailing in the 400-meter dash (1:00.96) and the triple jump (35'0") while also teaming with Jenna Helton (So., Waterloo, IL), Kylie Swisher (Jr., Royal Center, IN/Pioneer), and Kathleen Sherburne (Sr., Fort Wayne, IN/Bishop Dwenger) to win the 4x400-meter relay (4:19.69).

Helton also won the mile run (5:42.25), while Sherburne won the 200-meter dash (27.31). Brittney Bertsch (Jr., Milton, IN/Cambridge City Lincoln) took first in the 55-meter dash (7.52) and Natasha Kinsey (Jr., Elkhart,

IN/Memorial) prevailed in the long jump (17'2").

Second-place finishes came from Jacqui Mohr (So., Crown Point, IN) in the 3,000-meter run (11:50.44), Ashley Moore (Jr., Clarksville, IN) in the 5,000-meter run (19:54.96), Chappell in the high jump (5'2"), and Kinsey in the triple jump (34'1"), and third-place efforts were recorded by Sherburne in the 55 dash (7.67), Danielle Stockmaster (Jr., Willard, OH) in the 5,000 run (20:00.03), and Thompson in the long jump (16'8").

First-place finishes for SJC's men's team came from Grant Dean (Jr., Hillsboro, OR) in the long jump (22'5.5"), Tadd Hettinger (Fr., Rochester, IN) in the triple jump (44'0.25"), and the 4x200-meter relay team of Jeremiah Tworek (Fr., Trafalgar, IN/Indian Creek), Lonnie Hurst (Sr., Detroit, MI/Univ. of

Illinois), Joel Jaeger (Fr., Marseilles, IL/Ottawa), and Kasey Carl (Fr., Hoopeston, IL), which finished in 1:35.23.

The Pumas also had a trio of second-place finishes by Joe King (Sr., Alsip, IL/Brother Rice) in the 5,000 run (16:02.22), Eric Kramer (Sr., Holland, IN/Southridge) in the high jump (6'4"), and Aaron Ruter (Jr., Forreston, IL) in the 35-pound weight throw (54'7.25"). Placing third were Tworek in the 200 dash (23.80), Kramer in the 55-meter hurdles (7.86), Sir William McKenzie (Fr., San Leandro, CA) in the shot put (46'2"), and the 4x400 relay quartet of Tworek, Jaeger, Kramer, and Hettinger (3:37.66).

SJC travels to Cedarville, Ohio, tomorrow for the Cedarville University Invitational. The meet is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. local time.

*When will the Cubs win the World Series?*

*Duke or North Carolina?*

*Will the Colts win the Super Bowl?*

**Think you know Sports? Write for the Observer.**

Send articles to  
ack5427@saintjoe.edu

*Tony Stewart or Jimmie Johnson?*



Oh, My God! Shoes!

Popular Dissent  
with Danny Waclaw

Putzing around online: it's a truly American collegiate pastime. The best and most addictive form comes in the video craze that is currently in full swing. It's something that brings a tear to every parent, knowing that his or her child is learning fashion tips from William Sledd's *Ask a Gay Man* series or different forms of muffins from the inimitable Liam Sullivan.

It's not all bad, though; *Time* even cited it as a reason for selecting You for its Person of the Year. It also provides fun, random entertainment. This, however, leads to quite a conundrum: at what point does the distraction of online entertainment no longer serve to distract but



These shoes cost three hundred dollars. Let's get 'em!

rather to provide a virtual reality? It was a given that society would become more simulated with the advent of computer technology; however, the extremes to which this has gone in the past few years are startling. One only needs a camera or a cell phone to become a star these days (that is, if one considers fame among high school students tantamount to the Academy Awards). In short, making videos for a virtual audience in a virtual world for virtual fame is perhaps not the most positive attribute of American society today, but everyone loves shoes.

On the Town!

**Josh Groban**  
· Who? *The leading pop-classical vocalist today sings all his latest songs from his newest album Awake.*  
· When? 8 PM on Saturday, February 24, 2007.  
· Where? *The United Center in Chicago, IL.*  
· Tickets are available through [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

**Kathy Griffin Live!**  
· What? *The original D-list celebrity dishes on her Malibu neighbors in two shows in Chicago.*  
· When? 8 PM on March 23-24, 2007.  
· Where? *The LaSalle Bank Theatre in Chicago, IL.*  
· Tickets are available through [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

Overheard

*If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to [dwj5079@saintjoe.edu](mailto:dwj5079@saintjoe.edu) today to let your peers' voices be heard!*  
I'm so over having children.  
  
I refuse to capitalize anything that isn't biodegradable.

There was a massive, Medusa-like hair in my lasagna.  
  
For my fellow Nigerians: don't pour sand in my gari!  
  
Person 1: You want to walk out arm in arm?  
Person 2: Sure.  
Person 1: Why not, we already look like dykes.  
  
Have some whiskey: it makes you feel better!

**Fountain Stone Theaters**

Movies for Jan. 27 - Feb. 3  
**(219) 866-2222**  
[fountainstonetheaters.com](http://fountainstonetheaters.com)

**Dreamgirls**  
Fri: 4:20, 6:30, 9:00 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00  
Sun: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40  
Mon-Th: 4:20, 6:40

**Epic Movie**  
Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (PG)  
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10  
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10  
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

**Charlotte's Web**  
Fri: 4:50 (G)  
Sat: 2:50, 4:50  
Sun: 2:50, 4:50  
Mon-Th: 4:50

**The Pursuit of Happyness**  
Fri: 6:50, 9:00 (PG-13)  
Sat: 6:50, 9:00  
Sun: 6:50  
Mon-Th: 6:50

**Night at the Museum**  
Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG)  
Sat: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00  
Sun: 5:00, 7:00  
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

**Hitcher**  
Fri: 5:20, 7:20, 9:10 (R)  
Sat: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:10  
Sun: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20  
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:20

**Book Jacket of the Issue!**

Amy Sedaris' latest book *I Like You: Hospitality under the Influence* wins Omega's latest award for Most Amazing Book Jacket of the Issue. Pick up this little gem, and you can learn about proper entertaining etiquette, such as how to properly freeze meatballs and introduce barren friends. Always the smart hostess, Sedaris also knows how to deal with nosey guests—simply fill your medicine cabinet with marbles! Be the coolest kid at the block party with this soon-to-be how-to classic!

Photo and info courtesy of <http://www.amysedarisrocks.com/images/ilikeyou.jpg>

Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo

**Capricorn** (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)  
If you need extra money, get a job. You are an adult now, so stop relying on Mommy and Daddy for your funds. Take time to stay focused—do not let others get in the way of your dreams. Self-discipline will keep you on course.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)  
Stop being so emotional. Does someone have a case of the Mondays? Stop taking everyone so seriously, and put a smile on your face. You only live once—stop taking everything around you for granted.

**Pisces** (Feb. 18-March 20)  
Give and you shall receive. Do not take “no” as your final answer. Persistence and perseverance go hand in hand. You have the power to overcome hardships—just follow your instincts. Good guys do not always finish last.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19)  
If you want something done right, do it yourself. Now is the time to have your feelings in writing to cleanse your soul. Problems may be arising with the one you love; tell him or her how you feel. Now is the time to heal and start fresh.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 19)  
Get off your bottom and do something. Stop being so lazy and do something for a change. Your television and computer will still be there when you get back. A happy surprise is upon you.

**Gemini** (May 20-June 20)  
Do not be so insecure and gain some confidence. You have it going on, so strut your stuff. This is the time for you to shine in all that you do. Others will follow your footsteps if you take the lead.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 21)  
Stop being so sensitive—do not take everything people say around you seriously. Stop pretending to be something you are not. You will only prosper as yourself. The actions you take today will affect you tomorrow. Now is the time to become physically and spiritually fit.

**Leo** (July 22-Aug. 22)  
Is there some trouble in your love life? Now is the time to decide if you are happier with or without your significant other. Try going out with your crew for a change. Listen to the guidance of your friends; they know what is good for you.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)  
You have been showing too much of your dark side lately. Smile! It is a small campus and hard to hide from those you do not get along with. Take the lead to solve problems when drama arrives.

**Libra** (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)  
It is a new year—get out of boring room and celebrate. Spending hours on Facebook is not helping your social life. This is the perfect time for competition—you could handle a big challenge.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You are not an angel, so stop hiding your horns and tail. People are starting to see through your nice guy image. Learn to be comfortable in your own skin. No one likes a phony, so just be you.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)  
Life is getting rather crazy. Learn to use your Puma Guide or things will be more unorganized. If a good friend lets you down do not hold a grudge. “Friends love at all times.”